5/19/83
C2175-1B

THE CHRONICLE
of Higher Education

ISSN 0095-5982

May 11, 1983 • $1.75
Volume XXVI, Number 11

News Summary

Articles on inside pages

An investment expert has advised colleges to offer alternatives to the employee pension plans administered by T.I.A.A. and C.R.E.F. Story on Page 21; list of C.R.E.F. investments on Pages 22-25.

KEN HEYMAN

Margaret Mead (above) and her work in Samoa have come under renewed attack, forcing many reluctant scholars to defend her contributions to the field. Story on Page 27.

A House committee refused to yield to university lobbyists and delete provisions regarding the use of research animals from a bill to reauthorize N.I.H. activities. Story on Page 13.

Recent studies have shown that many varsity athletes—particularly black football and basketball players—are experiencing serious academic difficulty. Stories on Page 17.

Hugh Trevor-Roper, the British historian, has been criticized by colleagues for his controversial role in the publication of diaries allegedly written by Adolf Hitler. Story on Page 19.

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Report on Excellence in Education Acclaimed; Panelists Criticize Reagan's Interpretation

In radio speech, President said more federal funds for education 'are not the answer'

WASHINGTON

A national commission's report calling for an upgrading of academic standards in American schools and colleges has received wide acclaim, but policymakers and educators have drawn very different conclusions about what the federal government's role should be.

President Reagan said the call by National Commission on Excellence in Education "for an end to federal intrusion is consistent with our task of redefining the federal role in education."

But David P. Gardner, president of the University of Utah and chairman of the panel, said the President "misstated the focus" of the report's comment on the federal role in education.

The reforms recommended by the commission have been interpreted by many educators, including some members of the panel itself, as requiring increased federal support. And that view has already found support on Capitol Hill.

Sen. Ernest F. Hollings, Democrat of South Carolina, cited the commission's emphasis on education as "a critical national priority" as he sought to add $1.5-billion for education to the 1984 budget. However, it was unclear last week whether the Senate would approve any extra funds.

President Reagan, commenting on the report in a radio speech, drew a different conclusion from the commission's statement that "a rising tide of mediocrity" has underminded the quality of American education over the last 20 years.

"Those were the years when the federal presence in education grew and grew," Mr. Reagan said. "There are things the federal government can and must do to insure educational excellence, but bigger budgets are not the answer."

In its final report, the commission painted a bleak picture of the deteriorating qual-

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Two more reports called for changes in the country's education system last week:

- A Twentieth Century Fund panel urged the federal government to do more. Story and excerpts begin on Page 5.
- A group of prominent citizens warned that poor education threatens the nation's economic well-being. Story on Page 10.

Raising College Standards Is Already 'In the Works'

By MALCOLM G. SCULLY

Last month, trustees of the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville adopted tougher admissions standards for entering freshmen, starting in academic 1985-86.

This month, trustees of the California State University system will vote on a proposal to stiffen requirements for students entering and completing teacher-education programs on the system's 19 campuses.

The requirements are designed, a system spokesman said, to assure that future teachers "demonstrate competency in the subject-matter field and college-level proficiency in written and verbal communication, mathematical reasoning, computation, and reading."

The actions in Arkansas and California are not unique. For at least five years, colleges and universities have been raising their standards for admission and adopting measures that they hope will improve the quality of their teacher-education programs.

The need for such reforms was emphasized in the recent report of the National Commission on Excellence in Education.

In the view of many higher-education observers, however, the commission did not chart a new course for colleges and universities. But it did provide a highly visible endorsement of a movement that has been going on for some time.

The commission's report is "outdated in some respects," said Ernest L. Boyer, president of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. "In discussing many of the areas of reform, the commission is simply affirming what has been in the works for several years."

In recent developments, higher college-entrance standards have been adopted at all public colleges and universities in Maryland and at the nine campuses of the University of California.

In Maryland, trustees of the state's colleges and universities have specified that,

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Colleges Woo Brightest Students with Academic Scholarships

Scarcity of top test-scorers leads to competition for them

By JANET HOOK

"I went mad with glee."

That's how Ben Weinberg, a high-school senior in Denver, describes his reaction last month to the news that he had been awarded a college scholarship worth $16,000 over the next four years because, put simply, he's smart.

A finalist in the competition for National Merit Scholarships, bearing a sterling high-school record and scores of 740 and 760 (out of a possible 800) on the Scholastic Aptitute Test, Mr. Weinberg has been offered the $4,000-a-year scholarship by Brandeis University—even though his family makes too much money for him to qualify for aid based on financial need.

Like other high-school students with an outstanding academic record, Mr. Weinberg has for the last year found his mailbox stuffed with letters from colleges, including Princeton and Stanford Universities, urging him to apply.

But after being offered the academic scholarship from Brandeis—and after a visit to the campus last March in which he was showered with attention from faculty members, administrators, and students—Mr. Weinberg decided to attend Brandeis next fall without even waiting to hear about the status of his application to Har-

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U.S. Aid to Black Colleges Up $19.6-Million

By CHARLES S. FARRELL

WASHINGTON

Education Secretary Terrel H. Bell last week gave the Reagan Administration an A for its commitment to historically black colleges and universities.

In the first report on the executive order that President Reagan issued in 1981 directing government agencies to improve the participation of black colleges in federal programs, Mr. Bell said 27 agencies had exceeded their goals.

More than 100 historically black colleges received $564.5-million in federal grants

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JOHN C. PHILLIPS

Secretary Bell at press conference